

UNIVERSITY OF *Minnesota*

MEDICAL SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY AND NEUROLOGY
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

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Dear Harold,

Some questions: Do you know if Julia Ann Mercer has ever been shown a photo of Larry Crafard? Have you gotten the Alyea stuff back from Palmer yet?

I have heard from Hal and answered his letter. He still seems to think that Turner is OK. Liberation news is doing a big thing on the assassination. Right now they are doing stuff on the trial. I warned them away from all of the Turner stuff which he has already tried to feed them--they saw through most of it themselves. Shortly they will be doing things on 544 Camp, etc. and using documents with it. While they may not do that good a job, with your book and some guidance it is better than not sending the stuff over the wire at all. The guy who is doing it is an old friend and quite trustworthy.

David Shoenbrun will be in town tomorrow evening and I expect to be with him and try to negotiate use of what JFK told him on Nov. 1, 1963: that he was removing all troops from Vietnam.

Will try to find time to write Barry. Did you tell Burton about your suspicions about Vosjolj? Fred, who knows nothing about them, asked if you had since Burton was apparently mentioning it. Fred couldn't get it straight since he has no personal knowledge of it and thus picked up only bits and pieces, and even a misspelling on the name which would only have been recognizable had I known of your hypothesis. A memo on that subject is enclosed.

I agree with your limitation on the use of the word agent, and tend to use it in the generic sense, although it is not generally used that way. I do not feel that Burton is an agent and certainly doubt that Jaffe is. That in no way lessens whatever their involvement is in our recent problems. I assume that Boxley is probably a tool of the government, although maybe he is just crazy. The same goes for Turner, who in my mind is more likely an agent than Boxley, if for no other reason that he engages in craziness only under certain circumstances. Turner's stuff does not fall apart as readily as Boxley's and he is clever and a good liar. Your arguments on Bud, about whom I have no real opinion, do not hold water. Making possible your Nov. trip and helping in Washington mean nothing more necessarily than working his way in. In the case of your trip to N.O., he could have been doing nothing more than buying you off. Let's not forget that he then sort of withdrew financial aid when you would not cooperate fully with the committee and that you yourself had some harsh words for what had some resemblance to financial ~~black~~ blackmail. You are very vulnerable in this respect, being poor and yet having a strong and enviable desire to get to the bottom of this, and also having as your sole source of income books on the assassination for which you need material. In addition, your strong views on how to approach the subject dictate, in a very commendable fashion, that you must continually gather new material. To do this you need to make trips. To make trips it helps to have someone with money who will pay. I disagree that "these things he believed were believed by virtually all, present company and probably Paul alone excepted." I doubt if Jim's staff would have believed them, I didn't and neither did Vince. I doubt if any of the more experienced critics would have bought any of that stuff, no matter who said it. And it is even harder to see how an establishment lawyer, bright and with much experience, could have swallowed any of that rot for even an instant. He never claimed that Garrison had evidence of things, but rather that there was evidence of things, and that he had seen it. Then he went on to recount it

and I refuted it. His resistance on Turner sounded just like Mark Lane on Boxley: Well, we're stuck with him, even if he is an agent. His interview of Sylvia Odio is one of the few things which definitely ~~###~~ salvages him in my mind, since that was far too nutty a stunt for a real agent with his intelligence. Also, his dislike for both Kennedys and liking for LBJ is something one would not expect from someone trying to build credentials in this area. So, as far as I am concerned Bud is an enigma. I plan to work with his committee, as I joined from the beginning, and am lending him a hand wherever possible. I am also alert to what the committee will be doing and the work of its members. As far as Burton is concerned, I have already written some people on the West Coast, including Fred and Hal, and suggested that we take care of our own and someone or all of them think in terms of helping him re-orient himself and perhaps return to useful work on the assassination, hopefully having learned some important lessons. I myself have been through a less serious crisis, and at his age. It is a little easier to view the situation in this fashion now than it was some time ago while there were many troubles and Burton was adding to them and perhaps endangering Jim through mistrial -possibilities.

You are not the only one who suggested that Jaffe contact me when he went to Minneapolis. I contacted Burton several times and so did Vince, emphasizing that it would be very important to see me before seeing Kroman, and at the very least, after seeing him.

I have someone going through City of Night now, by John Rechy. It is about homosexuals, seems authentic and based on real people, and has material on N.O.

Have you ever heard of Bill Spitzer of Liberation News Service? He supposedly helped put together and polish up Turner's big masterpiece on Garrison in Ramparts.

Take it easy and don't forget that I will be in Lansdowne from the 12th to the 23rd. Give my regards to your wife and tell her that one of these days I will get around to trying that recipe she so kindly copied out of her mental cookbook for me (that delicious chicken). I feel guilty as hell after she went to that trouble and I salivated over that chicken so many times that I just haven't had time to make it.

Gary